United Nations DP/FPA/CPD/VNM/9

Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Office for Project Services

Distr.: General
5 July 2016

Original: English

Second regular session 2016
6 to 9 September 2016, New York
Item 5 of the provisional agenda
UNFPA – Country programmes and related matters

United Nations Population Fund

Country programme document for Viet Nam

Proposed indicative UNFPA assistance:	$23.0 million: $16.2 million from regular resources and $6.8 million through co-financing modalities and/or other resources, including regular resources
Programme period:	Five years (2017-2021)
Cycle of assistance:	Ninth
Category per decision 2013/31:	Pink

Proposed indicative assistance (in millions of $):

Strategic plan outcome areas		Regular resources	Other resources	Total
Outcome 2	Adolescents and youth	3.4	2.5	5.9
Outcome 3	Gender equality and women's empowerment	3.7	2.5	6.2
Outcome 4	Population dynamics	7.9	1.8	9.7
Programme coordination and assistance		1.2	-	1.2
Total		16.2	6.8	23.0

16-11556 (E) 210716

Please recycle

I. Situation analysis

1. Viet Nam is a low middle-income country, with a population of 90 million and a market-based economy with socialist orientation. Over the past 30 years, Viet Nam, achieved impressive social and economic development, advancing its regional and global integration process through various trade agreements. The country achieved a number of Millennium Development Goals; it reduced the maternal mortality ratio from 233 per 100,000 live births in 1990 to 60 per 100,000 live births in 2014. Poverty has declined substantially, with the national rate falling from 58.1 per cent in 1993 to 7.1 per cent in 2015.

2. Despite the socioeconomic progress, significant disparities across regions and population groups remain. Inequality within the country has increased in every region since 2002, particularly in the poorest areas. Poverty rates are higher among ethnic minorities, migrants, older persons, people with disabilities and female-headed households. Women from certain ethnic minority groups are four times more likely to die as a result of childbirth than Kinh majority women. Many women – especially unmarried, young and migrant women, and women in remote regions – access with difficulty information on family planning services. People living with HIV and people with disabilities suffer from stigma and social exclusion.

3. New vulnerabilities emerge from urbanization and industrialization. The near-poor, barely rising above the poverty line, are susceptible to internal and external shocks. Internal migrants working in industrial zones and the informal sector lack access to basic social services. Viet Nam's population is rapidly ageing, with 10.5 per cent over 60 years of age. The social protection system falls short in providing a minimum floor for vulnerable groups. Climate change affects population dynamics, as sea-level rise will trigger substantial out-migration from coastal and delta areas. Linkages among climate change, inequality, poverty and population dynamics call for intersectoral policymaking.

4. With significant reductions in official development assistance, innovative approaches and partnerships are required to address the remaining challenges. The role of the United Nations to uphold normative principles and standards, provide evidence-based policy advice, and promote a rights-based approach to development is critical. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provide a multi-stakeholder platform for the United Nations to offer integrated policy support towards a sustainable, inclusive and equitable society.

5. Viet Nam is in a demographic bonus period; nearly one third of the population are young people. The Government, while realizing the importance of investing in youth, has not yet prioritized comprehensive youth development and participation in national development plans. There are barriers for young people, particularly for internal migrants, to access sexual and reproductive health services and information. Available sexual reproductive health services do not meet unmarried young people's needs, leading to a significant number of unwanted pregnancies. The adolescent pregnancy rate among ethnic minorities is high, at 99 births per 1,000 teens. The comprehensive sexuality education curriculum is not effectively implemented in schools, and adolescents are often not informed of issues related to sexuality, reproductive health and rights, and gender equality. With limited availability of the human papillomavirus vaccine, the total mortality caused by cervical cancer is estimated at 3,500 cases per year, more than two times higher than total maternal deaths.

6. Viet Nam ranks relatively high on gender equality (60 among 188 countries in the 2014 gender inequality index) but discriminatory attitudes and stereotypes persist. A national study on domestic violence against women in 2010 showed that 58 per cent of the surveyed women had experienced at least one form of physical, sexual or emotional violence, of which 87 per cent did not seek help from public services. While

laws and policies are in place, the legal framework is insufficient and law enforcement ineffective. Declining fertility and technological developments reinforce fetal sex selection, bringing the sex-ratio-at-birth imbalance to 112.2 boys per 100 girls. Administrative data suggests that early marriage is concentrated among poor and ethnic minority communities.

7. The Government emphasizes a need for high-quality data and evidence to advance its national development agenda and address inequalities. National capacity for data collection and analysis increased, but concerns remain over accessibility, quality and disaggregation of data. Systematic and substantial use of available data is needed. Utilization of innovative approaches, such as real time data, would help to identify trends, emerging opportunities and threats to population dynamics and development.

8. National capacity to undertake evidence-based policy and programme development must be reinforced, as certain populations lag behind national averages. The SDG framework requires holistic approaches to strategically address complex issues; greater multi-stakeholder engagement in policymaking and implementation processes, including participation of the disadvantaged, needs to be incorporated in policies. Engagement of a wide spectrum of organizations and individuals, including civil society organizations (CSOs), is necessary to address systemic barriers.

II. Past cooperation and lessons learned

9. The previous programme focused on: (a) providing support to produce and use high-quality, disaggregated data and policy research findings for planning, monitoring and evaluating key population and social development policies and strategies; (b) building capacity to produce evidence on the situation of older persons, young migrants and ethnic minorities to influence policies; (c) providing support to health system strengthening and addressing gender-based violence and sex-ratio-at-birth imbalance; and (d) supporting elected officials to develop evidence-based, gender-sensitive policies and strategies in its areas of comparative advantage.

10. The 2015 country programme evaluation revealed that the programme is relevant to the needs of citizens, particularly vulnerable groups, and demonstrated agility in responding to emerging issues. The role of UNFPA was universally recognized in population-related data production. The organization's capacity to address complex and culturally sensitive issues, including adolescent sexual and reproductive health and sex-ratio-at-birth imbalance, was confirmed as a signature strength. Gender and rights-based approaches were well integrated.

11. The evaluation recommended the following: (a) address the gap between policy and implementation with stakeholders; (b) build on its established expertise and reputation in addressing sensitive issues and generating, analysing and utilizing data for development; (c) broaden partnership with CSOs and the private sector and to create space for diverse views to be integrated in the policy processes; (d) measure better the impact of policy advocacy; (e) explore new modalities for programme implementation, including non-project approaches; and (f) integrate a longer-term view on the country's development trajectory. It also recommended more flexible approaches to target-setting and monitoring, to quickly adapt to changing contexts.

III. Proposed programme

12. Within the low middle-income country context, UNFPA will focus on achieving universal access to sexual and reproductive health, particularly for young people, addressing gender-based violence and harmful practices, strengthening data generation and analysis capacity, and evidence-based policy advocacy – in line with the national Socio-Economic Development Plan 2016-2020, the SDGs and national normative frameworks. UNFPA will address inequalities and emerging vulnerabilities, and follow

a human rights-based approach throughout the cycle. The programme supports policy development and effective implementation to address inequalities, particularly among ethnic minority communities, and will develop policy approaches to address emerging vulnerabilities, especially for young migrants, the near-poor, ageing populations, women experiencing violence, and populations at risk from climate change.

13. Within the 'Delivering as One' context, UNFPA builds on its established niche and cooperation with other United Nations agencies, and will continue to lead inter-agency efforts on data for development, youth and gender-based violence. The programme will be delivered through broader coalitions of stakeholders, including CSOs and the private sector.

A. Outcome 2: Adolescents and youth

14. Output 1: Improved national policy environment to conduct participatory and evidence-based advocacy for rights-based national laws, policies and programmes on adolescents and youth development issues. To achieve universal access to sexual and reproductive health, the programme focuses on evidence-based policy advocacy, addressing the rights of vulnerable young people, including ethnic minority youth. It fosters policy-level change towards holistic youth development, including: (a) revision and implementation of the youth law; (b) promotion of youth participation in policymaking processes; (c) policy-level support to comprehensive sexuality education; (d) policy advice on enhancing young people's access to sexual reproductive health information and services, including human papillomavirus vaccine; and (e) gender mainstreaming in youth policies and programmes.

B. Outcome 3: Gender equality and women's empowerment

15. Output 1: Enhanced policy environment to prevent gender-based violence and harmful practices and enable the delivery of multisectoral services through strengthened partnership with civil society organizations. The programme provides policy advice and technical assistance to the Government, CSOs and the private sector towards changing cultural norms, advocating for women's rights and addressing gender-based violence and harmful practices. It will (a) support the development of national guidelines and standards for multisectoral services; (b) strengthen pre-service and in-service training programmes for gender-based violence prevention and response; (c) develop guidelines for social workers to work with male perpetrators; (d) support institutionalization of the piloted minimum intervention package and multisectoral coordination mechanisms to address gender-based violence; (e) help partners develop and implement new initiatives on engaging men and boys related to gender-based violence and harmful practices and on promoting better access to health-services for vulnerable women and girls; and (f) advocate and support the revision of domestic violence prevention and control law.

C. Outcome 4: Population dynamics

16. Output 1: Strengthened evidence base to address inequality in policy advocacy on population and development, climate change, sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights. Data and evidence is a prerequisite for effective policy advocacy and policymaking. In Viet Nam, scientific evidence is a powerful tool for policy change. The programme will focus on supporting: (a) the 2019 census, including in-depth data analysis, (b) repeated national surveys on adolescent sexual and reproductive health, family planning and in-depth data analyses of 2015 national surveys on migration and on ethnic minorities; (c) monitoring of localized SDG indicators; (d) improvements in civil registration and vital statistics; and (e) generation and analysis of data and policy research – on population ageing; linkages between climate change and population dynamics; sexual and reproductive healthcare financing; equitable access to sexual and reproductive health services among vulnerable populations, including sex workers; and reproductive system cancers.

17. Output 2: Improved policy environment to integrate population dynamics and health and social data into policies and programmes to advance human rights, redress inequalities and achieve equitable sustainable development. The programme supports the usage of data and evidence for the entire policy cycle through multi-stakeholder policy dialogues and knowledge sharing. It will help to strengthen linkages between central and subnational governments in UNFPA-mandate areas, and support the inclusion of vulnerable groups in policymaking, implementation and monitoring. The programme will focus on: (a) advocacy for a rights-based and evidence-based population law and medical examination and treatment law; (b) advocacy for national health-financing policies towards universal sexual and reproductive health coverage; (c) development of policies and programmes on social protection of vulnerable populations; and (d) development of policies and guidelines to improve universal access to sexual and reproductive health services among key populations. It will also promote South-South and North-South knowledge exchange and cooperation to support evidence-based policymaking.

IV. Programme management, monitoring and evaluation

18. UNFPA and the Government of Viet Nam, through the Ministry of Planning and Investment as the coordinating entity, will be jointly responsible for management of the programme, following UNFPA guidelines and procedures, the harmonized project and programme management guidelines, and a results-based management approach. Guided by the partnership plan, UNFPA will harness partnerships with national and local government entities, CSOs, academia, the private sector, the media, and international partners. The programme will be implemented through direct and national execution modalities. UNFPA will work with a small number of implementing partners, including CSOs. The country office will explore innovative ways to monitor and evaluate programme results, particularly on how to measure results of policy advocacy work.

19. The country office will earmark the required programme funds to ensure an adequate staffing structure, with the required capacity and skills for technical and policy advisory services, advocacy, monitoring of policy implementation and strategic communication. For effective programmatic and operational coordination, the country office continues to maximize the benefit of a shared location with other United Nations organizations. The regional office, UNFPA headquarters divisions and external partners will provide additional technical, operational and programme support.

RESULTS AND RESOURCES FRAMEWORK FOR VIET NAM (2017-2021)

National priority: Improve capability, health, morale and lifestyle of people to develop a high-quality labour force.
Sustainable Development Goals: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being across all ages.
One Strategic Plan outcome 1.2 (draft): By 2021, all people, particularly the most vulnerable, benefit from inclusive and equitable health systems, services and the promotion of healthy environments.

UNFPA strategic plan outcome	Country programme outputs	Output indicators, baselines and targets	Partners	Indicative resources
Outcome 2: Adolescents and Youth Increased priority on adolescents, especially on very young adolescent girls, in national development policies and programmes, particularly increased availability of comprehensive sexuality education and sexual and reproductive health services. Outcome indicator(s): • Laws and policies that allow adolescents (regardless of marital status) access to sexual and reproductive health services in place. Baseline: No; Target: Yes	Output 1: Improved national policy environment to conduct participatory and evidence-based advocacy for rights-based national laws, policies and programmes on adolescents and youth development issues	• Availability of rights- and evidence-based recommendations for revision of youth law and related policies, including on unmet sexual and reproductive health needs of young people. Baseline: No; Target: Yes • Availability of policy and programme recommendations to improve the national comprehensive sexuality education curricula and their implementation in line with international standards. Baseline: No; Target: Yes • National platforms for active youth participation (focus on disadvantaged adolescents and youth) in planning and decision-making on law and policies in place. Baseline: No; Target: Yes • Number of guidelines and monitoring tools for gender mainstreaming in national and subnational policies and programmes for young people developed and effectively used. Baseline: 0; Target: 2	Ministries of Home Affairs; Health; Education and Training; Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs; Committee for Ethnic Minority Affairs; Parliamentary Committee on Culture, Youth, Adolescents and Children; United Nations agencies; civil society organizations (CSOs), the private sector; the media	$5.9 million ($3.4 million from regular resources and $2.5 million from other resources)
National priority: Effectively implement gender equality and women's advancement; promote and protect children's rights. **Sustainable Development Goals**: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. **One Strategic Plan outcome 4.2** (draft): By 2021, protection of human rights is strengthened with improvements to the justice system, greater adherence to the rule of law, increased gender equality, and effective prevention of all forms of discrimination and violence.				
Outcome 3: Gender Equality and women's empowerment Advanced gender equality, women's and girls' empowerment, and reproductive rights, including for the most vulnerable and marginalized women, adolescents and youth. Outcome indicator(s): Gender equality and gender-based violence national action plans that integrate reproductive rights with specific targets and national public budget allocations. Baseline: No; Target: Yes Proportion of actions taken on Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women recommendations from the previous reporting cycle. Baseline: 0; Target: 50%	Output 1: Enhanced policy environment to prevent gender-based violence and harmful practices and enable the delivery of multisectoral services through strengthened partnership with civil society organizations	• Number of policy papers and guidelines on gender-based violence and harmful practices developed and used for law and policy development and programming. Baseline: 0; Target: 6 • Number of new initiatives on men and boys engagement related to gender-based violence and harmful practices with civil society organizations and private sector. Baseline: 0; Target: 3 • Gender indicators included in the national statistical indicators in line with SDGs and international standards Baseline No; Target: Yes • Number of evidence-based recommendations on gender-based violence, harmful practices and sex work available and used for policy advocacy and policy development Baseline: 0; Target: 5	Ministries of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs; Health; Education and Training; Home Affairs; Public Security; Committee for Ethnic Minority Affairs; Parliamentary Committee on Culture, Youth, Adolescents and Children; Parliamentary Committee on Social Affairs; United Nations agencies; CSOs; private sector; the media	$ 6.2 million ($3.7 million from regular resources and $2.5 million from other resources)

National priority: Perfect legal system, and assure its comprehensiveness, coherence and transparency to meet needs for socioeconomic development and international integration. **Sustainable Development Goals:** (3) Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being across all ages; (5) Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls; (13) Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts; (17) Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development. **One Strategic Plan outcome 4.1 (draft):** By 2021, participatory and transparent decision-making processes and accountable institutions are strengthened, with policies and implementation mechanisms that are responsive to all people, particularly vulnerable groups, women, youth and children.				
Outcome 4: Population dynamics Strengthened national policies and international development agendas through integration of evidence-based analysis on population dynamics and their links to sustainable development, sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights, HIV and gender equality Outcome indicator(s): • Number of new outcome documents of high-level global and regional intergovernmental meetings that address sexual and reproductive health, reproductive rights, gender equality, and the needs of adolescents and youth and population dynamics, to which Viet Nam provided contributions in line with the International Conference on Population and Development. Baseline: 0; Target: 3 • Number of national household surveys conducted that allow for reporting on localized SDG indicators related to sexual and reproductive health and gender equality. Baseline: 0; Target: 1	Output 1: Strengthened evidence base to address inequality in policy advocacy on population and development, climate change, sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights	• Availability of technical recommendations for 2019 census Baseline: No; Target: Yes • Availability of updated evidence on inequalities in access and utilization of sexual and reproductive health services including family planning Baseline: No; Target: Yes • National SDG monitoring framework with indicators related to International Conference on Population and Development established and effectively utilized Baseline: No; Target: Yes • Availability of technical recommendations for improvements of the civil registration and vital statistics system discussed and considered by the Government Baseline: No; Target: Yes	General Statistics Office; Ministries of Health; Education and Training; Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs; Culture Sports and Tourism; Committee for Ethnic Minority Affairs; United Nations agencies; academia; CSOs; private sector; the media	$6.5 million ($5.5 million from regular resources and $1.0 million from other resources)
	Output 2: Improved policy environment to integrate population dynamics and health and social data into policies and programmes to advance human rights, redress inequalities and achieve equitable sustainable development	• Availability of new rights- and evidence-based recommendations for development/revision and monitoring of population law, resolutions on population and development and related policies Baseline: No; Target: Yes • Availability of new rights- and evidence-based recommendations for development/revision and monitoring of policies and guidelines on universal access to sexual and reproductive health services, including cervical cancer prevention, for ethnic minority women and girls Baseline: No; Target: Yes • Number of new international cooperation initiatives on ageing, family planning and adolescent sexual and reproductive health for evidence-based policy advocacy and programme development Baseline: 0; Target: 10	Ministries of Planning and Investment; Health; Education and Training; Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs; Culture, Sports and Tourism; Committee for Ethnic Minority Affairs; Central Committee for Popularisation and Education; Parliamentary Committee on Social Affairs; Vietnam Fatherland Front; United Nations agencies; academia; CSOs, private sector; the media	$3.2 million ($2.4 million from regular resources and $0.8 million from other resources) Total for programme coordination and assistance: $1.2 million from regular resources